

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/058 W

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R 241338Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5686

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TINT, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI COMMENTS ON PRESS CENSORSHIP

1. DURING A CALL BY EMBASSY ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MUHAMMAD ABDO YAMANI, THE OCCASION AROSE TO ASK THE MINISTER ABOUT SELECTED CENSORSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.

2. THE MINISTER SAID THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN SUBJECTS IN THE PRESS SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO THE READING PUBLIC. AMONG THESE WERE SUGGESTIVE OR NUDE PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ARTICLES HIGHLY CRITICAL AND "UNWARRANTED" OF THE GOVERNMENT OR ITS LEADING PERSONALITIES.

3. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT INCIDENTS OF CENSORSHIP HAVING TO DO WITH THE CONTENT OF A MAGAZINE'S ARTICLES WERE RARE, AND HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT PUBLICATIONS DESTINED FOR USE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BE PASSED ON UNCENSORED. COMMENT: IT IS VERY SELDOM THAT THE SAG WILL CENSOR THE WRITTEN-AS OPPOSED TO THE PHOTOGRAPHIC--CONTENT OF TIME OR NEWSWEEK. THE FRENCH LANGUAGE WEEKLY "L'EXPRESS" HAS EXPERIENCED VIRTUALLY NO TEXTUAL CENSORSHIP SINCE PUBLISHING AN ENCOMIUM OF CROWN PRINCE FADH A YEAR AGO.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, CENSORSHIP  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
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